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Date: 31 July 2002



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SUPPL

Dear Sir

J Sainsbury plc response to Secretary of State announcement

Please find enclosed a copy of the above announcement made to the London Stock Exchange on 31 July 2003.

Yours sincerely

**Hazel Jarvis**  
Manager, Group Registration  
& Shareholder Services

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**J Sainsbury plc response to Secretary of State announcement regarding its possible acquisition of 171 Somerfield stores**

Sainsbury's notes that the Secretary of State today announced that she has decided to refer Sainsbury's possible acquisition of 171 Somerfield stores to the Competition Commission.

Sir Peter Davis, Sainsbury's group chief executive, said,

"We are disappointed with the outcome and will reflect on the issues raised in the report once it has been published."

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